



BARC Newsletter

The BARC Newsletter is published quarterly by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) to provide news and information on agricultural research and development to the NARS and other concerned organization in Bangladesh.

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National Tree Plantation Program 2010

The National Tree Plantation Program 2010 was observed on 1 June 2010 with a call to plant at least three saplings by each individual in all open spaces including campuses of different educational institutions to maintain the environmental and bio-diversity balance throughout the country. In this context the Ministry of Agriculture observed Fruit Tree Plantation Fortnight from 16 June to 30 June 2010. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury inaugurated the Fruit Tree Plantation Fortnight Program as chief guest on 16 June 2010 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.



A view of the National Seminar on Role of Local Fruits in Food and Nutrition Security

The inaugural session was followed by a seminar on *Role of Local Fruits in Food and Nutrition Security*. Mr. A K M Mojammel Haque, MP, Hon'ble Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Land Affairs attended the program as special guest. Mr. Quazi Akhter Hossain, Secretary in Charge, Ministry of Agriculture presided over the seminar. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Mr. Sayeed Ali, Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension were also present as guests of honour on the occasion. Dr. Md. Abdul Haque, Director, Horticultural Research Center, BARI presented the keynote paper. Professor Dr. M.A. Rahim, Department of Horticulture, Bangladesh Agricultural University and Mr. Habibur Rahman, Director, Field Service Wing, DAE were the discussants on the keynote speech.

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Begum Matia Chowdhury emphasized the needs and importance of local fruits considering their nutritional value. She laid emphasis on producing quality planting materials of local fruits so that people could grow more local fruit trees for meeting the nutritional demand vis-a-vis earning foreign exchange after meeting the internal demands. Mentioning the role of local fruits in poverty alleviation, employment generation and protecting environment, the chief guest said that the government has undertaken various programs for increasing the country's forest resources through social afforestation. Special Guest Quazi Akhter Hossain underlined the need for protecting local fruit trees for the future generation and directed the authorities concerned to take appropriate measures to make the program a success. Mr. Hossain suggested the organizers to hold fair on local fruits and tree plantation in a co-ordinated way involving concerned agencies. The keynote speaker Dr. Md. Abdul Haque in his paper discussed fruit security, balanced diet, earning from local fruit cultivation, problems and prospects of local fruits cultivation and present technological status of local fruits production. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC laid importance on increasing the availability of fruits round the year. In this regard he drew attention of the scientists to provide the farmers with quality planting materials. He also stressed the reduction of post harvest management loss. As many as 400 scientists, extension personnel and representatives from NGOs and farmers attended the seminar.

National Workshop on Research Priority in Agriculture

BARC, as the apex body of the NARS, is required to cope with the contextual and temporal changes and to undertake demand driven research to address the need of the technology users. To fulfill the current need, BARC with the involvement of renowned scientists and academicians as group leaders conducted twelve sub-sectoral studies in

different areas of agriculture. The group leaders were assigned to execute the task of collecting all relevant information interacting with eminent scientists, academicians and professionals in a BARC organized two-day National Workshop on *Research Priority* during 1-2 June 2010. The objective of this workshop was to share the findings of the priority/ sectoral studies and to enrich these findings with the suggestion of the participants for finalizing research priority. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury was present in the inaugural session as chief guest. Mr. C Q K Mustaq Ahmed, Secretary of MoA was present as special guest. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC, chaired the inaugural session. Besides, Mr. Sayeed Ali, Director General, Department of Agricultural Extension and Mr. Anwar Faruqe, Director General, Seed Wing were present on the occasion.



A view of the National Workshop on Research Priority in Agriculture where Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury was Present as Chief Guest

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Begum Matia Chowdhury emphasized priority basis research in line with the government policy, documentations in the poverty reduction strategy, context of climate change regarding food security, millennium development goals, national priorities and institutional mandates of the NARS institutes and above all the reality and need of the end-users. She also laid emphasis on formulation of principles of crop/land management and crop zoning. BARC, with the participation of all stakeholders and feedback from the extension workers and farmers should decide the research agenda and work out the research priorities. Mr. C Q K Mustaq Ahmed appreciated BARC for organizing such an important workshop and suggested for adoption of research based on the nature of research, resource availability, capability of the proponents and facilities available at the ARIs and public universities and other related organizations. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC opined that priority setting is a continuous process in order to match with the changing context of the farming community.

Post-harvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables in Bangladesh

National workshop on *Post-harvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables in Bangladesh*, organized by Crops Division was held at BARC during 17-18 May 2010 where Mr. CQK Mustaq Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was present as chief guest and Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman Akanda Chowdhury, Member-Director (Crops), BARC delivered the welcome address. Dr. S M Monowar Hossain, Managing Director, Hortex Foundation presented the keynote paper entitled *Post-harvest management and value addition of fruits and vegetables in Bangladesh*. About 60 participants from different organizations attended the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to identify the priority researchable areas and reduce post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables and improve the livelihood of the farmers. Mr. C Q K Mustaq Ahmed, Secretary, MoA hoped that valuable recommendations would come out of the workshop that would be a pathway to future research guidelines for the improvement of post-harvest management of fruits and vegetables in Bangladesh.

Recommendations:

- Research on post harvest management and processing to provide demand driven technology for local and export market.
- Strengthening research on toxicity/residue analysis of different horticultural crops.
- National survey on the extent of post harvest loss of perishable horticultural crops.
- Exploration of mini-scale storage facilities using solar and other renewable energy.
- Encourage new enterprises to manufacture post harvest tools and quality packaging material for different crops.

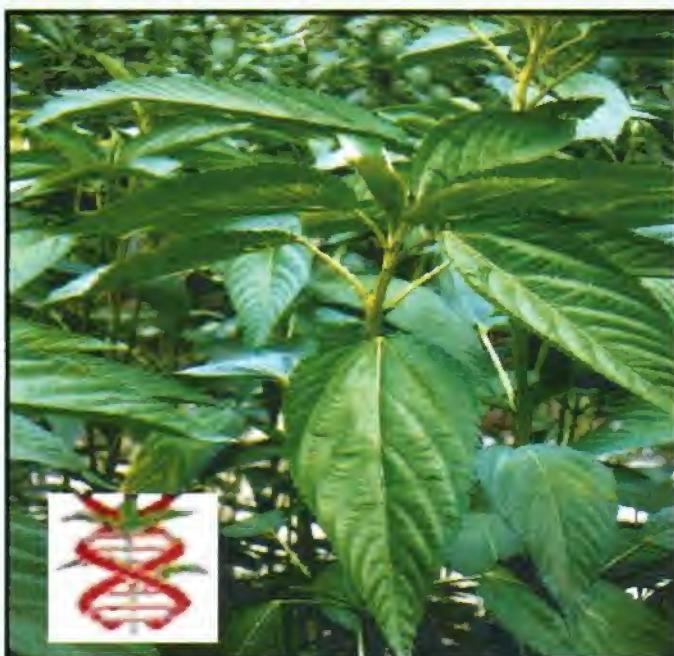


A view of the National Workshop on Post-harvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables where Mr. C Q K Mustaq Ahmed was the Chief

- Training of different stakeholders on various aspects of post harvest management and demonstrate post harvest technologies to create awareness among the farmers and traders.
- Development of maturity/harvesting index for individual fruit and vegetables.
- Awareness building on the post harvest management and use of ripening chemical in fruits and vegetables.
- Promote to set up processing industries for high value crops.
- Development of package by accumulating existing technologies and knowledge/experiences on post harvest management for immediate transfer to the farmers and traders.
- Development of technologies on pre and post harvest pest management of horticultural crops.
- Development of post harvest machinery for handling and processing of fruits and vegetables.
- Development of processing technologies for menstruating economic products from damaged and unused fruits and vegetables.
- Development of comprehensive food composition tables for different fruits and vegetables.
- Support specialized R&D program for development of technologies for quality improvement of raw materials and finished products both in private and public sectors enterprises/institutions.

Bangladeshi Scientists discover the Sequence of Jute Genomes

A group of Bangladeshi researchers led by Dr. Maqsudul Alam, a Bangladeshi Scientist and Professor of Microbiology of the University of Hawaii, USA have successfully decoded the jute plant genome opening up a new vista in the development of variety of the world's most adorned biodegradable natural fibre. Experts said this gene sequencing would help improve the fibre length and quality including colours and strength; and develop high yielding, salinity and pest tolerant jute varieties through genetic engineering.



In biology and genetics, a genome is the particular number and combination of certain chromosomes necessary to form the single nucleus of a living cell. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the disclosure in the parliament on 16 June 2010. Prime Minister thanked Agriculture Minister, Begum Matia Chowdhury for supporting this project. The discovery of genome sequencing of jute would facilitate better pest control and better finished industrial products of Jute. With the discovery Prime Minister said, Bangladesh joins a handful of countries which conducted such research to map out genetic sequences of other plants or vegetables. Hon'ble Prime Minister gave direction for taking immediate measures to safeguard Bangladesh's intellectual property rights over the discovery.

Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar

A two day workshop on *Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar* organized by TTMU, BARC was held at BARC during 13-14 June 2010. Krishibid Shawkat Momen Shajahan MP and Mr. Quazi Akhter Hossain, Secretary (incharge), Ministry of Agriculture were present as chief guest and chairman in the inaugural session respectively. Mr. Sayeed Ali, DG, DAE and Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC also attended the inaugural session as guests of honour. About 60 participants from NARS, agricultural universities and extension departments attended the workshop. The main goal of the workshop was to attain the target of alleviating poverty by 2015 through proper utilization of local resources. Dr. Wais Kabir opined that the program would help create self employment and thus expedite poverty alleviation. He called upon the scientists to make this program a success in line with the PM's declaration for improving the living standard of the rural people. Mr. Sayeed Ali said successful implementation of the recommendations made in the workshop would ensure qualitative change in the livelihood of the rural people. Mr. Sawkat Momen Shajahan MP expressed his views laying emphasis on the speedy implementation of the program of *Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar* by LGRD Ministry. He directed them to make all-out efforts to implement the program for achieving the government's goal in boosting rural economy. In this context, he asked the leaders and workers of the organization across the country to form co-operatives in respective areas to facilitate the marketing of farmers' products. He also suggested to ensure women involvement in this program. Besides, this concept would help reduce poverty, he hoped. Mr. Quazi Akhter Hossain said all-out co-operations will be given from the ministry to implement this program.

Sustainable Land Use Through Soil and Crop Management in Relation to Climate Change and Land Degradation



Dr. Sk Ghulam Hussain spoke in the inaugural session of this workshop where Dr. Wais Kabir, EC, BARC was also present

The inaugural ceremony of the workshop on *Sustainable Land Use Through Soil and Crop Management in Relation to Climate Change and Land Degradation* was held on 5 May 2010 at BARC. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present in the inaugural ceremony as chief guest and Mr. Joinal Abedin Talukdar, Joint Secretary (Development), Ministry of Environment and Forests was present as special guest. Dr. Sk Ghulam Hussain, Member Director, NRM, BARC chaired the session. The main objective of the workshop was to create awareness among the people about the importance of sustainable land management against the consequence of climate change as well as land degradation. The workshop provided a platform for the researchers, policy makers, extension personnel and development partners to interact and discuss the emerging issues regarding the climate change, land degradation, soil salinity, crop management, top soil loss, water logging, gap in policy synergy, fertilizer management etc. Sixty professionals from research and educational institutions, development and extension agencies including NGOs participated in the workshop. Fifteen papers were presented covering problems associated with sustainable land management. Possible remedial measures were discussed in the

workshop. Some suggestions and recommendations were made for policy planners, researchers, development and extension workers. Executive Chairman, BARC Dr. Wais Kabir opined that development of more comprehensive frameworks for land evaluation and participatory land and water use planning, including appropriate land tenure reform would enable communities to cope better with the adverse impacts of climate change. He underscored the need to identify the emerging challenges and opportunities regarding the implementation of these recommendations. The chairperson Dr. Hussain opined that sustainable land use principle is one of the few options for land users to increase income without destroying the quality of the land as a basis of production. Dr. Md. Shahjahan, CSO, NRM delivered the welcome address opining that land degradation in Bangladesh needs urgent and high level attention.

Progress Review and Monitoring of Research and Technology Transfer Programs

A two-day workshop on *Progress Review and Monitoring of Research and Technology Transfer Programs*, organized by the Planning and Evaluation Division of BARC, was held during 22-23 June 2010. The objective of the workshop was to review the progress and identify constraints to implementation of research and technology transfer programs.



Dr. Wais Kabir, EC, BARC addressing the Progress Review of Research and Technology Transfer Program

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC as chief guest. Dr. Md. Moznur Rahman, Director (Research) of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute was

special guest in the inaugural program. The program was presided over by Dr. Sk Ghulam Hussain, Member Director, Planning & Evaluation, BARC. Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder, CSO, Planning & Evaluation, BARC delivered the welcome address. Eighty eight participants from different NARS institutes and agricultural universities attended the workshop. The chief guest in his opening speech emphasized the proper implementation of the programs as planned. The special guest urged the participants to discuss the programs constructively so that some recommendations could be made for effective implementation of the programs in future.

The technical session of the workshop was followed by the inaugural session. Twenty four papers on research and technology transfer programs were presented in the three technical sessions by the respective program leaders of NARS institutes and Agricultural Universities. Four monitoring reports were also presented by the monitoring team members in another technical session. In the concluding session, some recommendations were made for strengthening the activities related to the implementation and monitoring of the research and technology transfer programs.

Dissemination of Knowledge on Food Based Nutrition

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council and Bangladesh Applied Nutrition and Human Resource Development Board (BAN-HRDB) jointly organized a 5-day training course each on *Dissemination of Nutrition Information among School and Madrasa Teachers and Food Based Nutrition in the Light of Processing and Preservation of Small Entrepreneurs*. The first training programme was conducted in 4 batches during 20-24 December 2009; 3-7 January; 16- 20 May and 6-10 June 2010 and the second one was conducted on 7-11 March and 25-29 April 2010 in the conference Room of BAN-HRDB, Dhaka. A total of 120 school and madrasa teachers from different parts of Bangladesh participated in the first program. The course was organized to disseminate the message on food based nutrition with the view that the acquired knowledge would be imparted to the students, which might be transmitted to the parents and neighbours. The second course was conducted with a view to improving their skill and knowledge in food processing and preservation of perishable vegetables and fruits. A total of 60 small entrepreneurs and NGO representatives participated in the second program. The courses covered on multidisciplinary areas like agriculture products, fishery, food hygiene, sanitation, safe food and food security, improvement of nutrient level, different toxic chemicals use in food, arsenic problems, processing and preservation techniques of fruits and vegetables etc. The training program was inaugurated by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC as the chief guest while

Dr. Md. Moslem Uddin Mia, Director, Nutrition, BARC was present as special guest. The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. A.F.M. Saiful Islam, Director, BAN-HRDB. The address of welcome was delivered by Dr. Md. Monirul Islam, PSO, Nutrition, BARC. Dr. Md. Moslem Uddin Mia in his address explained the role of teachers in dissemination of knowledge on nutrition. He also hoped that the teachers could contribute to build up awareness among the school children in healthy food and their nutritional requirements. He also mentioned the criteria of safe foods and the importance of food based nutrition and processing and preservation of agro-products. Dr. Wais Kabir, in his inaugural speech, described safe food as basic human right of the people and also laid the importance on food and nutrition which might be achieved through this type of training program. While distributing the certificates among the participants, he stated that this training might help the people for intaking of food items such as cereals, fruits and vegetables in particular to mitigate the nutritional problems.

Mr. Shawkat Momen Shahjahan MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture attended as chief guest in one of the certificate award programs and distributed the certificates among the participants. In his deliberation, he appreciated for arranging such type of training and emphasis the dissemination of this kind of training at district and upazilla level.

Training and Progress Review of Summer Onion Production Technology

Farmer's trainings on *Summer Onion Production Technology* were held in Faridpur and Jessore on 9 May 2010 and 10 May 2010 respectively under the project entitled *Technology Transfer and Identification of Adoption Constraints to Summer Onion in Selected Onion Growing Areas* funded by

field management of summer onion for better production. A total of 30 farmers attended each training program. The training lectures were delivered by expert scientists of On-farm Research Division, Spices Research Centre, BARI and BARC. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Principal Scientific Officer and Coordinator of the project was the Course Director of the training programs.

Review Workshop on Crop Improvement Program

Crops Division of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council organized a workshop on *Research Progress (2009-10) & Program Planning (2010-11) of Crop Improvement Program of BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI and BINA* during 15-16 June 2010. In this workshop conventional and biotechnological research activities implemented during 2009-10 were presented. The future research program (2010-11) on crop improvement through conventional breeding and biotechnological approaches of BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI and BINA were also reviewed. In the inaugural session of the workshop Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as chief guest and Dr. Khalequzzaman Akanda Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC chaired the session.



Farmers' training at Jessore and Faridpur

BARC. Four trainings were conducted as part of project activities in the 1st year. At the inception of the project, a training program was arranged with 30 farmers in Faridpur and Jessore. Summer onion is a new technology having lot of potentialities and for this reason farmers' training program was arranged to scale up the knowledge and skill. Ten farmers have been selected among the trainees (farmers) for demonstration of summer onion bulb production and for subsequent demonstration (bulb and seed production) to this group of farmers. Other training programs on the Summer Onion Production were held on 29 June in Faridpur and 30 June 2010 in Jessore. At that time the crop (summer onion) was at bulb development stage and the training program specially covered the

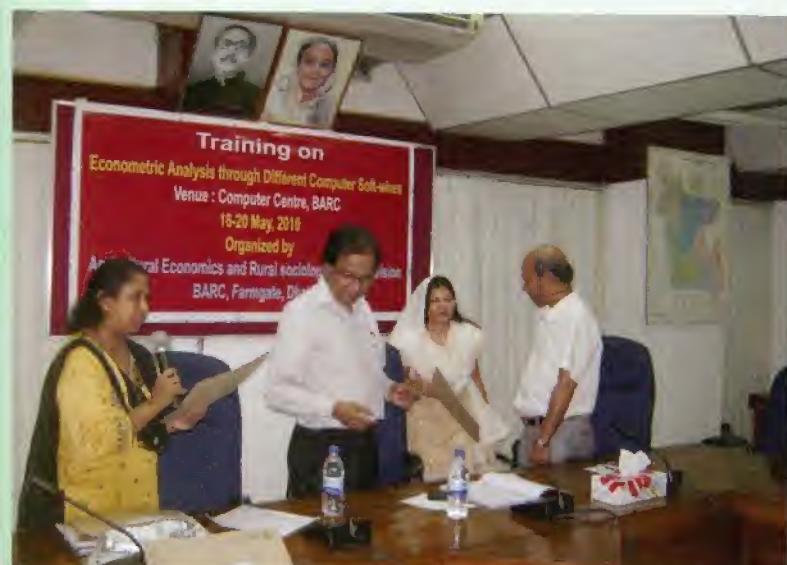


Dr. Rafiqul Islam Mondal is addressing in the inaugural session of this workshop where Dr. Wais Kabir, EC, BARC was present as chief guest

Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Chief Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC and Director SAC, delivered the welcome address. The workshop was attended by 55 participants from different NARS institutes.

Econometric Analysis through Different Computer Softwares

A five-day training program on *Econometric Analysis Through Different Computer Softwares* was organized by Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Division, BARC during 16-20 May and 06-10 June 2010 respectively. The objective of the training was to find out appropriate method for econometric analysis, determine the accurate result and find out the actual findings related to agricultural research. A total of 36 participants from different research institutes attended the training program in two batches, each of 18 participants.



Dr. Wais Kabir, EC, BARC giving certificates among the participants of this training

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as chief guest in inaugural and closing functions. Dr. Kabir emphasized the need on econometric analysis for policy research for ensuring food security of the country. Dr. SM Khalilur Rahman, Member Director (AERS) and Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, PSO, BARC briefed the objectives of the training program. In each batch 27 lectures were delivered covering different aspects of economic issues that included statistical applications through different computer software such as E-view EASY, TSP, SPSS. Researchers from NARS and eminent Professors from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Salna, Asha University, Dhaka and United International were resource speakers. Participants opined that this training program would benefit them a lot in their professional life.

Technology Transfer and Identification of Adoption Constraints to Summer Onion in Selected Onion Growing Areas

A day long progress review workshop on *Technology Transfer and Identification of Adoption Constraints to Summer Onion in Selected Onion Growing Areas* organized by Crops Division, BARC was held at BARC on 21 June 2010. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC chaired the opening and technical sessions of the workshop. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Principal Scientific Officer (Crops) and Coordinator of the project presented the project details and achievement made so far. About 70 participants attended the opening ceremony as well as the technical sessions. Dr. Sk Ghulam Hussain, Member Director, Planning & Evaluation, BARC presided over the technical Session-II. Twenty five participants from BARI, BADC, BARC and DAE attended the technical Session-II. Dr. Md Sirajul Islam, Principal Scientific Officer (OFRD), BARI, Jessore and also Principal Investigator of the project presented the progress in Jessore zone, while Mr. M Kamaruzzaman, Senior Scientific Officer (OFRD), BARI, Faridpur, and co-investigator of the project presented the progress in Faridpur region. At the end of the workshop, problems regarding the technology and hindrance of the expansion of summer onion in the farmer's field have been discussed and identified. The probable solutions pointed out in discussion session might be very helpful for achieving the project objectives.

NATP Training on Financial Management and Procurement Procedure

The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) organized a 5-day comprehensive training course on the *Financial Management and Procurement Procedure*. The course aims at improving the knowledge, skills and capacity of Upazilla Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Officers in the areas of financial and procurement management like accounting, budgeting, auditing, preparing procurement plans and tender documents, etc. for implementing better and effective management of

Executive Council Meeting

The 82nd and 83rd Executive Council Meetings of BARC were held at BARC Conference Room No. 1 on 20 April and 15 June 2010 respectively. The meetings were presided over by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC and Chairman of the Executive Council. The 82nd EC meeting reviewed implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 81st meeting. It discussed and approved the research proposals and budgets for the fiscal 2009-2010 placed by BJRI, BSRI and BFRI (Forest). It also approved the allocation of funds among different NARS institutes, DLS and agricultural universities provided by the Ministry of Agriculture under the 'Research & Training' Program. The meeting also approved 800 US dollar as monthly stipend for foreign Ph.D scholars in the developing countries



Resource person is conducting the Training on Financial Management

The resource persons (trainers) of the course were the financial and procurement experts from the Ministry of Finance, the World Bank, CAG office, CPTU of Ministry of Planning, NATP and other relevant government departments. The project aims at training 360 officers from 120 upazilas in 9 batches. During 2009-2010, 225 officers of DAE, DoF and DLS have been trained in 6 batches. The remaining 135 officers will be trained during 2010-2011. The participants highly appreciated the course and opined that the course was very effective because it improved and updated their knowledge on financial matters significantly.



Executive Council Meeting discussing the issues relating to the research and development activities of NARS

including India. Implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 82nd EC meeting were reviewed in the 83rd EC meeting.

It discussed and approved research proposals and budgets for the fiscal 2009-2010 placed by BLRI, SRDI, BINA, BTRI and BFRI (Fisheries).

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the nine SRGR proposals submitted for approval and finally approved five proposals.

Review of Socio-Economic Research Programmes of NARS Institutes



A view of the inaugural session of the workshop

A day-long workshop on *Review of Socio-economic Research Programs of NARS Institutes* was held at BARC on 17 June 2010. Dr. Sk Ghulam Hussain, Member Director, Planning & Evaluation, BARC chaired the inaugural session, where Professor Md. Tofazzal Hussain Mia, Dean, BAU, Mymensingh was present as special guest. Dr. S M Khalilur Rahman, Member Director (AERS), BARC welcomed the participants and briefed the objectives of the workshop. The workshop aimed at strengthening the future research program taking into consideration the climatic change issue. The keynote paper presentation on "Research Vision-2030" was given by Dr. Md. Abul Quasem, Ex-Senior Research Fellow, BIDS who strongly emphasized the selection of future research work on the development of agriculture in Bangladesh. The objectives of the workshop were to implement the research programs properly in time and take necessary attempts; to give suggestion for future research programs and to avoid the research duplication among different institutes. Eighty five participants from different NARS Institutes attended the workshop. Papers on research

progress/achievement and future research on socio-economic aspects were presented by the presenters of the institutes. Two technical sessions of the workshop were chaired respectively by Dr. W.M.H. Jaim, Professor, BAU, Mymensingh and Dr. Ekramul Ahsan, Former Executive Chairman, BARC. The sessions were followed by the closing session chaired by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC. Several recommendations were placed on the basis of the valuable suggestion made by the scientists and expert members from different institutions. The major recommendations

of the workshop are given below:

- Research work should be published in good journal and make available to policy makers and researchers.
- Besides the cost and return study, policy research work should be emphasized.
- Research challenge for 2030 developed by BARC should be a guideline for future research especially on climate change, food security, international trade etc.
- "Impact study of climate change" should be included in the two week training course on "Econometric Analysis through Different Computer Softwares" for mid level and young scientists of Agricultural Economics division of NARS Institutes.
- Every NARS Institute should have Agricultural Economics Division and vacant post should be fulfilled as early as possible.
- More funds should be released in case of macro level study rather than micro level study.

Technology Refinement/Validation and Technology Transfer

A two-day workshop entitled *Progress Review of Technology Refinement/Validation and Technology Transfer Sub-projects under ATT Project* was organized during 30-31 May 2010 at BARC to review their implementation progress. About 80 scientists and personnel from the relevant agencies including BARC participated in the workshop. The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Dr. Sk Ghulam Hussain, Member Director, Planning and Evaluation, BARC. Dr. M. Molsem Uddin Mia, Project Director (ATT), BARC, in his welcome address, highlighted the salient features of refinement/validation and technology transfer sub-projects and their implementation status.

The Chairperson Dr. Hussain, said that short time activities in agriculture especially technology transfer might not bring significant changes in the production system. It Possible steps for longer term activities for extension and extrapolation of the technology transfer activities should be taken into consideration. He also mentioned that technology should be sustained after withdrawal of fund and identify the problems of implementation of the project.

In the first technical session, progress of six sub-projects implemented by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) were presented by their respective Coordinators/Principal Investigators. The sub-projects implemented by BARI included on-farm technology transfer through farmers participation, validation of some vegetable varieties of BARI, seed production of groundnuts, validation of wheat varieties and adoption of short duration of mustard varieties, BINA conducted trial on oil seeds variety of BINA and BJRI on popularization of Tossa jute (O-72) at farmer's field.

In the second technical session, progress of a sub-project implemented by Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) was presented. It undertook the validation of *Salmonella Pullorum* coloured antigen technique for diagnosis the avian infections in poultry farms. On the other hand, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute implemented three proposals on mud-crab, maximizing growth and minimize production cost of 3 species of fishes and set-bag-net model.

In the third technical session, progress of technology transfer of crops related sub-projects implemented through GO-NGO partnership were presented. These were BARI:Prova on seed production of mustard, lentil and chickpea in Barind area; pineapple production round the year by BSMRAU:AGRES Foundation at Rangamati and Modhupur, Tangail; improved cropping patterns trial at Aditmari, Lalmonirhat by DAE:JNPS; replacement of local variety of mustard with BARI Sharisha 15 by DAE:SUS; dissemination of low cost production of mushroom by DAE:SKUGS and livelihood improvement of Adibashi people through homestead gardening of Nalitabari Upzilla under Sherpur district by BAU: BISHAL.

In the fourth technical session, progress of livestock related sub-projects on technology transfer implemented through the GO-NGO partnership on crossbread calf rearing by DLS: BCSKS/AIB/CHETONA/RWEDM; and Semi-intensive Bengal sheep rearing by DLS:SSURD were presented. The activities were implemented with improved management practices under technical support of DLS.

In the concluding session, the Project Director briefed the progress of sub-projects on refinement/validation and technology transfer presented by Co-ordinators/PIs of respective institute. The workshop discussed the importance of vegetables production technique in new area through farmers participation and replacement of local mustard by short duration varieties like BARI Sharisha 15 which varieties could easily be fitted in the existing cropping patterns between T. aman and Boro rice; validation and dissemination of new wheat varieties like Bijoy and Prodip while in fisheries sector, validation of mud crab in brackishwater and BFRI model of set-bag-net in marine and estuarine areas, and minimizing production cost of three fishes (Pangus, Telapia and Thai Koi). In livestock sector, salmonella antigen for avian influenza of poultry was developed by BAU and evaluated in poultry farm. In technology transfer, mushroom production, quality seed production and storage of lentil, mustard and chickpea were

found promising and as management of calf and sheep rearing in livestock sector might help in improving livelihood in the selected locations.

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC, in his concluding remarks, stated public-private partnership should be strengthened in disseminating location specific technologies. This would improve farmers' knowledge on modern technologies in augmenting the agricultural production which would eventually improve their livelihood.

Major recommendations

- Short duration mustard varieties like BARI Sarisha 15 needed to be disseminated to extended areas in Boro-T. aman cropping pattern.
- BINA oilseeds varieties, especially the short duration mustard and salinity tolerance variety should be given priority. BINA chinabadam variety might be given priority as kharif-I crop for seed production.
- Seed production of mustard, lentil and chickpea of BARI developed varieties in Barind area needed to be disseminated among the motivated farmers to preserve their own seeds.
- Hybrid vegetable varieties should be given thrust and strengthened in BARI research program.
- Create awareness about homestead vegetables production of Adibashi farmers of Nalitabari.
- Low cost production of technique (straw technique) of mushroom should be disseminated to the mushroom growers and market linkage to be established.
- The Jute variety O-72 need to be fitted in the existing pattern and therefore creation of awareness among the farmers about the variety is needed.
- BFRI developed set-bag-net model in marine and estuaries areas need to be demonstrated among larger number of the fishermen in the project areas. One MSBN need to be provided to each boat for dissemination of the technology.
- Fattening of mud crab technology might be useful that would require cost benefit analysis before dissemination of the technology to the fisherman.
- Saving cost technique for feeding (30%) of three fish species (Thai Koi, Pangus, Telapia) need to be disseminated to the farmers.
- BAU developed salmonella antigen need to be disseminated to poultry farms and motivated their owners to use these to poultry birds.
- Calf rearing activities should be continued at least for a period of 5 years and credit facilities should be ensured.

Consultation Workshop on Biosafety Rules of Bangladesh



A view of consultation Workshop on Biosafety Rules of Bangladesh

Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) jointly organized a half-day consultation workshop to finalize the Biosafety Rules of Bangladesh on 29 April 2010. Mr. M. Solaiman Haider, Deputy Director, DoE and Member Secretary, National Committee on Biosafety (NCB) welcomed the invited guests. Among others Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC, Dr. Robert Potter, a consultant to AGBIOS Canada; Mr. Md. Abdus Sobhan, DoE; Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, MoEF and the 46 participants who came from different ministries, NARS institutes, public universities, non-governmental organizations

and the private sector were present. Mr. Haider outlined the salient features of the draft rules mentioning that these rules had been formulated through a series of expert consultations. He asked the participants providing for comments on the draft rules to ensure a final version without gaps. Dr. Potter provided an overview of the draft rules and described how other developing countries had developed and using biosafety rules. He also mentioned his recent experience with biotechnology and biosafety activities being undertaken in some African countries.

In the introductory speech Dr. Kabir expressed his appreciation to the MoEF, DoE and SABP for taking the initiative to prepare the biosafety rules. He pointed out that Bangladesh's present ability to grow adequate food grain to feed its people was being undermined by the annual one per cent loss of cultivable land to river population increase and other factors. He also noticed that although the Green Revolution had contributed greatly to overcoming the global food crisis the need to grow more foods to feed an increasing population still existed and, in this context, agricultural biotechnology could be useful for the development of biotic and abiotic stress

tolerant crop plants but it needed a sound and transparent biosafety regulatory system in place. Dr. Majumder expressed his satisfaction at the wide range of participants in attendance at the half day-long workshop. He said his ministry had been taking steps to develop regulatory systems so that products developed through biotechnology could be handled safely. He urged participants and organizers to look at the developments of some of the neighbor countries like India, Pakistan, Malaysia, and the Philippines on how they had been working through biosafety related issues. Mr. Sobhan concluded the opening session by thanking the members of the Review Committee who drafted the biosafety rules. He then urged cooperation of the workshop participants to expedite finalization of the document. Following the opening session, the Rules were presented in outline and discussed in detail by the participants. Notes from these discussions and follow up submissions from the participants will be used to develop the final draft of the Rules for submission to the MoEF. The Rules will give a more formal legislative basis to the current Biosafety Guidelines of Bangladesh and provide enforcement powers under the Environment Conservation Act of 1995.

Agricultural Engineering Research Program



A view of the planning workshop on agricultural engineering future Research Programmes 2010-1011 of NARS Institutes

A two-day long planning workshop on *Future Research Program for Agricultural Engineering of NARS Institutes* was held during 24-25 May 2010 at BARC. In the inaugural function, Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as chief guest. Dr. Sk Ghulam Hussain, Member-Director, NRM presided over the session. Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Chief Scientific Officer, NRM gave the welcome address. The chief guest Dr. Kabir in his address stressed the appropriate farm mechanization which could increase cropping intensity, labour productivity, water productivity, profitability and reduce cost of crop production. He also emphasized inventing demand led models of agricultural machinery in order to strengthen the rural economy. Dr. Hussain emphasized quick mechanization and suggested to keep minimum operation cost of those machines.

Obituary



Mr. Sarker Sallahuddin, Senior Reprography Officer, AIC, BARC died of cancer at Dhaka on 21 May 2010 at the age of 59. He joined BARC as Photographer-cum-Artist on 1 June 1977. He was experienced in handling and management of micrographic methods and AV media production especially in the use of microforms in documentation. Mr. Sallahuddin received professional training from Philippines, Singapore and USA on

modern photographic and micrographic technique. He developed his professional expertise through long working experience and participation in seminars and workshops. He used to write for Pakistan Television, Radio Bangladesh and daily Newspapers. Mr. Sallahuddin also served at SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) as Reprographic Specialist. Since his assumption of service, he put his all out effort to accomplish the duties and responsibilities he was shouldered with. He was always found to be proactive in rendering the jobs. He left behind his wife and host of relatives. We sincerely condole his death and express sympathy with the bereaved family member and pray for his departed soul.

Rice and Pulses Production Increasing Program

A two-day long workshop on *Rice and Pulses Crops Production Increasing Program* was held during 15-16 April 2010 at BARC. The main objective of the workshop was to review the progress of the activities carried out during the year 2009-10. In the inaugural session of the workshop, Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC and

Mr. Md. Sayeed Ali, Director General, DAE were present as chief guest and special guest respectively. Dr. M. Khalequzzaman Akanda Chowdhury, Member-Director, Crops, BARC chaired the session. Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Chief Scientific Officer, Crops, BARC delivered the welcome address.

Distinguished Visitors

- 13-member delegation of agricultural scientists of Nepal led by Mr. Uttam Kumar Bhattari, Joint Secretary, Monitoring and Evaluation Div. of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Nepal met Executive Chairman of BARC on 13 April 2010. The objective of the visit was to have interaction and overall view about the NARS system of Bangladesh and the research achievements in the country.
- Three-member delegation consisting of Hanako Otani, Operations Department, Japan Association for Int'l Collaboration of Agriculture and Forestry (JAICAF), Kichiji Yajima, PhD, Technical Adviser JAICAF and Harda Koh, Chairman, Association for Int'l Promotion of Agricultural Cooperatives (AICA) visited BARC on 20 April 2010. The objective of the visit was to exchange views on their mission on data collection survey on agricultural sector in Bangladesh and discuss the ways how they could conduct the survey effectively.
- Ms. Imma Subirats, FAO, visited BARC on June, 2010. The objective of her visit was to provide advice and assistance on upgrading the physical and electronic documentation centre. She, accompanied by the AIC professional, met Executive Chairman, BARC at his office and discuss the possibilities of introduce new system for building up the efficient information and communication management in AIC, BARC.

○ Visit Abroad

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC, visited India during 22-26 June 2010. The Executive Chairman along with Mr. AZM Shafiqul Alam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of

Agriculture and Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, National Project Director, PCU-NATP Phase-1, visited Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Agriculture Science Museum, New Delhi and Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore. During the visit they talked to the top management officials of these organizations and exchanged views on how research cooperation between the two countries could be strengthened further. The Executive Chairman also discussed the matter of possibilities of Ph.D study of the Bangladeshi scientists in the Indian agricultural universities with the Deputy Director General of ICAR.

- Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director, Planning and Evaluation, BARC attended the Regional workshop on Strategic Assessment for Climate Change Adaptation in Natural Resource Management during 8-11 June, 2010 held in Sri Lanka.
- Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Chief Scientific Officer, Ag. Eng. attended the policy consultation for the FAO Bioenergy and Food Security (BEFS) project during 14-16 June 2010 held at Phayathai in Bangkok.
- Dr. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Chief Scientific Officer, Crops, BARC attended the Strategies for Arresting Land Degradation in South Asian Countries during 22-26 June 2010 held at New Delhi, India.
- Mr. Shah Md. Monir Hossain, Senior Scientific Editor, AIC, BARC attended the implementation workshop on Measuring and Analyzing Agricultural R&D Investment and Capacity Trends in South Asia during 29-30 April 2010 held at APAARI, Thailand.